

Translation

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY (Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 40561 - M	FOR FURTHER ACTION	
	See Form PCT/IPEA/416	
International application No. PCT/DE2004/000205	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 03.02.2004	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 06.02.2003
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC B21C 47/34, B65G 15/58, B65H 20/10		
Applicant SMS DEMAG AG		

<p>1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p>3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:</p> <p>a. <input type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau</i>) a total of _____ sheets, as follows:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the International Bureau only</i>) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).</p>																									
<p>4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <table style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. I</td> <td>Basis of the report</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. II</td> <td>Priority</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. III</td> <td>Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. IV</td> <td>Lack of unity of invention</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. V</td> <td>Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. VI</td> <td>Certain documents cited</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. VII</td> <td>Certain defects in the international application</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. VIII</td> <td>Certain observations on the international application</td> </tr> </table>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. I	Basis of the report	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. II	Priority	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VI	Certain documents cited	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application
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Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/DE2004/000205

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:

- international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
- publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
- international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)

2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (*replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report*):

the international application as originally filed/furnished

the description:
pages 1-4 as originally filed/furnished
pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

the claims:
nos. 1-4 as originally filed/furnished
nos.* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____
nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____

the drawings:
sheets 1/2-2/2 as originally filed/furnished
sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____

a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description, pages _____
- the claims, nos. _____
- the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

4. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

- the description, pages _____
- the claims, nos. _____
- the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/DE2004/000205

Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
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1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1 - 4	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1 - 4	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1 - 4	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

1. Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: DE 40 18 950 A (SCHLOEMANN SIEMAG AG) 19

December 1991 (1991-12-19)

D2: DE 26 04 909 B (SUNDWIGER EISEN MASCHINEN) 9

September 1976 (1976-09-09)

D3: PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN, Vol. 0175, No. 03

(M-1478), 10 September 1993 (1993-09-10) & JP 5

131217 A (ISHIKAWAJIMA HARIMA HEAVY IND CO LTD)

28 May 1993 (1993-05-28)

D4: US 3 283 980 A (DARIO BUCCICONE) 8 November

1966 (1966-11-08)

D5: US 5 762 253 A (AABERG KJELL ET AL) 9 June 1998

(1998-06-09)

2. Independent claim 1:

The closest prior art is shown in documents D1 and D2, which each show devices for transferring head ends of strips in which the head end of the strip is clamped.

In contrast thereto, in the device as per claim 1, the strip is held non-positively by the swivellable conveyor belt and is simultaneously supported by the surface of the table.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

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Box No. V

Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

This enables even very thin strips to be transferred or threaded without the strips buckling.

The solution to the aforementioned problem using the table and the swivellable conveyor belt is not suggested by the prior art. Although conveyor belts for non-positive connection to the strip using magnetic force or suction are known (see, for example, D4 and D5), they are not known as a swivellable unit in a transfer table.

Although D3 shows a device for transferring thin strips, the strip here is pressed onto rollers using compressed air.

The subject matter of claim 1 is therefore novel and inventive (PCT Article 33(2) and (3)).

3. Dependent claims 2 to 4:

Claims 2 to 4 show further embodiments of the device as per claim 1. The subject matter of these claims is therefore likewise novel and inventive (PCT Article 33(2) and (3)).